THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. The Government of India have collected an amount of approximately Rs. 51,000 crore up to 31.3.2004 through the Oil Industry Development Cess.

(c) and (d) The Oil industry Development Board (OIDB) has so far received an amount of approximately Rs. 902 crore out of the cess collected by the Government of India. The amount so allocated to OIDB is utilized for the development of the oil industry.

During the year 2003-04, the OIDB has released an amount of approximately Rs. 520 crore towards loans and Rs. 77 crore towards grants to Oil Sector PSUs /other Organisations engaged in the development of the oil industry.

Proposals for supply of Natural Gas to Maharashtra

2275. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals of the State Government of Maharashtra for supply of additional Natural Gas for Maharashtra are pending with the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra have requested an increase in gas supplies to the Uran Gas Turbine Power Station of Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) from the present level of 2.6 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) to 3.5 MMSCMD.

In the Uran region the availability of Gas is limited to only about 10 MMSCMD as against an allocation of about 16.5 MMSCMD. Thus, owing to the overall deficit in gas availability in the region, it has not been feasible to increase the gas supply to MSEB.